

SCANG shows “Excellence” in February UCI

The SCANG’s Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) is in the books and as usual the Wing pulled off another exceptional performance adding to its already Air Force-wide reputation for excellence. Again the Swamp Fox family came through and left the IG inspectors impressed.

The Wing has not endured a UCI in nearly two decades and in that time has deployed to multiple locations around the world for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, won the Falcon Air Meet, and completed a Phase I and Phase II ORI in addition to the numerous other activities such as developing the Active Associate program and Air Sovereignty Alert mission.

SMSgt. Malcolm Harris, security forces superintendent said, “A ton of hard work

went into it. Not to have a UCI in 18 years and to come out and perform better than the ANG average is huge.”

Harris was a member of the UCI Swat Team along with Lt. Col. Ronald “Chop” Lambe, Maj. John “Buster” Wilcox, CMSgt. Joe Brunson and MSgt. Jamie Powell.

Harris said the numbers speak for themselves. The IG team, consisting of 72 inspectors, spent three days combing through the Fighter Wing looking at 6,126 compliance items. The Air National Guard compliance average is 96 percent and Air Force wide (total force including ANG, active and Reserve) the compliance average is 97 percent. The SCANG topped that with a 98 percent.

“That’s the history of the SCANG when



(Photo by TSgt. Caycee Cook, 169th FW/PA)

Fire Department personnel are inspected during their reaction to a structure fire scenario Feb. 5.

— See UCI page 7

New TAG conducts McEntire town hall meeting

The new Adjutant General of South Carolina, Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston, visited McEntire Jan. 21 and held a town hall meeting with Airmen and Soldiers on base.

Brig. Gen. Scott Williams, the 169th Fighter Wing commander, welcomed everyone in attendance and introduced Livingston. Airmen from the Air Guard were joined by Soldiers from the Army Guard in the main hangar to hear what Livingston had to say.

Livingston said, “The South Carolina National Guard is the best in the nation. I have deployed with many other units and still rank South Carolina as number one.”

“We have a tradition of excellence. I have seen that through our high ops tempo, we have become more efficient and more joint. This will be an opportunity to bring more force structure to South Carolina.”

“I have a great appreciation for the Air Force culture, and I was on the staff that chose the 169th Fighter Wing for the Falcon Air Meet in Jordan.”



(Photo by SMSgt. Ed Snyder, 169th FW/PA)

Newly elected Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston, addresses members of the S.C. Air and Army National Guard at McEntire Joint National Guard Base.

During the town hall meeting Livingston took questions from the audience and addressed their concerns.

One Airman asked how well the new governor understood the National Guard. Livingston answered, “The governor has an appreciation for the military. She appreciates what we do, the things we sacrifice and the freedoms we safeguard. It is our responsibility to educate her and the rest of the civilian government why we do what we do.”

Another Airman asked the general about any future state partnerships between the South Carolina National Guard and other nations.

“We have made a request to work with the African nations, and we are actively pursuing one or two nations,” Livingston said.

He wrapped up the afternoon by telling the audience that he plans on having more town hall meetings in the future, however he joked, “Y’all are out in the middle of nowhere. But I guess I will be too, shortly, as soon as the new TAG building is finished.”

(Story by Staff Sgt. Tracci Dorgan, 169th FW/PA)

Commander's Corner



by
Brig. Gen. Scott Williams
169th Fighter Wing Commander

By the time your Group Commanders and I sat down with the ACC/IG Team Chief for a very brief UCI out-brief last month, most of you had returned to your civilian jobs. As is customary with inspections of this nature, the majority of our team members left McEntire with the "results" still pending. And it's possible that you still haven't heard how we did.

You spent months preparing, checking and double-checking your checklists. You put in long hours. You worked extra hard under extreme stress to ensure every "i" was dotted, every "t" was crossed. You were grilled for three days straight and then ... what?

There's no ceremony. No celebration. No big announcement about a final score or an official rating. For most of you, I suspect the whole thing was extremely anti-climactic. But you deserve more than that. You worked hard, and you deserve to know whether or not the extra hours, the stress and the extreme attention to detail were worth it.

Well, I'm here to tell you it was. For



three days, more than 70 inspectors combed through our fighter wing looking at thousands of compliance items. And you can be proud of the fact that you were found to be 98 percent compliant!

Because there's no IG score or five-tiered rating system like there is for an ORI, the best way to put our performance in perspective is to compare ourselves to the rest of the Air Force. The Air Guard average is 96 percent, and the Air Force (Total Force) average is 97 percent. So, considering our wing hadn't undergone a rigorous compliance inspection of this nature for about two decades, I'd say 98 percent is pretty exceptional. The Swamp Fox standard. Congratulations and thank you for your hard work over the past several months.

So, what's next?

Our 169th Medical Group is focused on this month's Health Services Inspection, basically the medical equivalent of a UCI. Be mindful of the presence of the Air Force Inspection Agency's Medical Operations Directorate March 2-6. Their team of

inspectors will be taking a very close look at our Clinic and our cadre of medical professionals. As appropriate, support the Med Group over the course of your drill weekend and be respectful of their busy schedules during the inspection.

In April, every member of the SCANG will participate in crucially important Resiliency Training. More commonly referred to as Wingman's Day, the first quarter of our UTA will concentrate on the programs and resources we each can use to manage the stressors and strains associated with an often high ops tempo.

Then, that afternoon, we're taking our traditional Family Appreciation Day to new heights. We have extended a special invitation to our new Adjutant General MG Robert Livingston and his family. And we're welcoming our friends in the South Carolina Army National Guard to join us as we celebrate the support and sacrifice of our spouses, children, parents and other loved ones. The afternoon's festivities include performances by the 246th SCARNG Band, the USAF Honor Guard Drill Team and regional bands like Coastal Breeze and Bodega Roja. We'll have F-16 and Black Hawk demos, a children's "Fun Zone" sponsored by Mr. Bunky's, static displays and great food. Plus, a traveling, half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be set up in the pecan grove. Stay tuned for additional details.

The following day, those of us who recently deployed for 90 or more days are invited to return with our families for a variety of Operation Yellow Ribbon activities. The special program offers guidance, information, services and other outreach opportunities and referrals for families before, during and especially after lengthy deployments.

I encourage you and your family members to take full advantage of these programs and activities. The recent announcement of our next AEF window -- Operation Enduring Freedom in April 2012 -- means our pace won't be slowing any time soon. You can expect a Phase I ORI in Summer 2013 and a Phase II after that. The Swamp Foxes continue to answer the call and rise to the challenge again and again. But we can only continue to do so with the unwavering support of our highly trained Wing Men and devoted family members. Continue to take care of one another, so we can continue to take care of the mission.

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Official Mission Statement of the 169th Fighter Wing: To provide a trained and equipped citizen fighting force that exceeds the capability of any Guard, Reserve, or active-duty Air Force unit in the protection and defense of state and nation; to maintain the capability for worldwide deployment of combat-ready assets to meet contingency and general war requirements; to employ conventional munitions in close-air-support, interdiction, offensive counter-air, defensive counter attack, suppression of enemy air defenses and special capability AGM-65 Maverick missiles; to provide world-class units that are recognized as being the best of the best when directed by the governor to preserve and protect the life, property, peace and public safety of the citizens of South Carolina.

Submission of SCANG News material: Articles and photography are welcome and should be submitted prior to the deadline (see below). E-mail submissions to 169FW.PA.SCANGNews@ang.af.mil.

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Deadline for the April issue is March 6



Chief's Concerns

Chief Master Sergeant Deborah Marshall, 169th FSS

"Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him," General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower.

When you read the quote from Gen. Eisenhower, what do you think he was telling us? It tells me that the world is constantly changing, and you have to adapt and change with it, move forward or you won't survive. This is true in personal and business life.

As I write this article, the Inspector General is on base. I've thought a lot about this Unit Compliance Inspection and have decided it is a great tool of "change." We get so busy in our jobs taking care of customers, putting those airplanes in the air, taking inventory, etc. that this UCI has forced us to look at and reflect on our processes. This is our opportunity to "re-blue" and make sure we are on the right flight-path. Change is necessary to move forward and remain competitive in our rapidly changing world. Have you ever worked with someone who either refused change or had issues with changing the way they work? What have you seen happen with them? They don't survive and people move around, ahead of them or they leave. The Japanese have a term called "kaizen," which means *continual improve-*

ment. It is a never ending quest to do better. Standing still allows your competitors to get ahead of you. Our "airplane patch" is continuously evolving and changing. Our leadership has done well in envisioning the future and setting up strategic roadmaps to help us get there. Our job is to change and move McEntire down that path and to continually look for ways to improve. Martin Luther King, Jr. did not say, "I have a very good plan." He shouted, "I have a dream!" You must provide passion and a strong sense for purpose of the change. Resistance to change is a dead-end street for you and the organization. The organization's top leaders know they cannot throw money at every problem, and they need highly committed and flexible workers. As a leader, you need to emphasize action to make changes as quickly and smoothly as possible. "Resistance is futile," as the borg from *Star Trek* like to put it. A learning organization is one that: 1) seeks to create its own future; 2) assumes learning is an ongoing and creative process for its members; 3) develops, adapts and transforms itself in response to the needs and aspirations of people, inside and outside itself; and, 4) allows people at all levels, individually and collectively, to continue to



increase their capacity to produce results they really care about. So, how do you feel about change and what are you going to do about it? What did you learn about yourself and your processes?

"There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered," said African Civil Rights leader Nelson Mandela in his book 'A Long Walk to Freedom.'



Recruiting & Retention

Military Personnel Summary

Strength

Officers:

Authorized	141
Assigned	130
Percent Manned	92.2%

Enlisted:

Authorized	1199
Assigned	1249
Percent Manned	104.2%

Total:

Authorized	1340
Assigned	1379
Percent Manned	102.9%
(as of February 14, 2011)	

Recruiting/Retention

Gains:

	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Prior	1	15
Non-Prior	0	23
Total	1	38

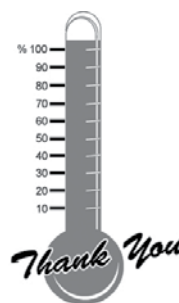
Losses:

ETS	0	4
Discharge	0	12
Medical	0	0
Resignation	0	4
Retirement	1	11
Transfer	0	12
Other	0	0
Total	1	43

Net Gain/Loss	0	-5
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Recruiting Progress

We're at 102.9 percent!



We must maintain 100% strength through 2011! Recruit & Retain!

There are many positions open for immediate recruiting...

Munitions, Weapons, Crew Chiefs, Life Support, CE, Security Forces and more



Seasonal flu vaccine

The seasonal flu vaccine, which includes the H1N1, is mandatory. Members who received the vaccine from a civilian provider must bring documentation to the Clinic. This is a mandatory vaccine. Members who haven't had it should get it at the Clinic this drill.

Free childcare available

Free childcare for children 6 weeks to 12 years is available at Fort Jackson's Child Development Center for all Guard and active duty members for posted drill dates. The CDC is located in base housing next to the Fort Jackson Commissary. Hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, contact Terry DeLille, (803) 647-8089 or email her at carolyn.delille@ang.af.mil.

Personal weapons policy

No personal weapons of any type, concealed or in plain view, are allowed on property of the S.C. Military Dept. and under the jurisdiction of the S.C. Adjutant General. Exceptions are members whose job requires them to carry weapons and who have written permission from the TAG.

ESGR Committee wants you

The SCANG Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve Committee seeks volunteers. Contact Lt. Col. Glen Boatwright, (803) 647-8216. Visit <http://scguardnow.net> for information or visit the SCANG ESGR Facebook site.

Firing Range: No trespassing

The Base Firing Range, Bldg. 3320, is for official use only and closed to the public and all non-authorized personnel. For more information, contact TSgt. Paul Wallace, 169th SFS, NCOIC, Combat Arms, Bldg. 979, (803) 647-8703.

Free Tax filing

Military OneSource offers free tax filing through H&R Block. Just log on to www.militaryonesource.com to access the free filing. Servicemembers can file one Federal and up to three State returns and includes rental property. The Tax Hotline is 1-800-730-3802 and consultants are available 7a.m.- 11 p.m., seven days a week.

Government Travel Card

Just by managing Government Travel Cards, each SCANG member can help the unit earn up to of \$25,000 per quarter for the base operating fund.

Complete accrual vouchers for extended TDYs. Turn in final travel vouchers as quickly as possible. Check statements and/or balances by accessing personal accounts at: <https://home.cards.citidirect.com/CommercialCard/Cards.html>

Remember, only use the card for government travel only.

Proof of Service Letter

Airmen can access the AF Portal, www.af.mil, under the Top Portal Links section to request a "Proof of Service Letter" from virtual Military Personnel Flight or a "20-year letter" from Personnel Center -- Guard and Reserve. Airmen can also apply for retirement using vPC-GR.

Blood Drive

There will be a blood
drive held in the canteen

April 3

Fort Jackson Education Fair

Fort Jackson ACS Employment Readiness Office hosts a Teen Job and Education Fair March 19 at the Solomon Center from 10 to noon. This event is open to the public. Employers will be recruiting for summer employment. Various education institutions will be there to talk about their educational programs. American Red Cross will be recruiting for their summer volunteer program.

Job Openings

Security Forces Squadron has a position open. Candidates must be in the rank of SSgt. with AFSC 350X1 / Personnel. Submit a package consisting of a letter of intent, resume and a RIP to the unit commanders office by April 3.

First Sgt. position open in the 169th LRS. Candidates must be in the rank of MSgt. or TSgt. promotable to MSgt. Submit a package consisting of a letter of intent, resume and a RIP to the 169th FW Command Chief, CMSgt. Zane Wall by Mar. 6. Contact Wall at zane.wall@ang.af.mil or (803) 647-8592 or (803) 608-0495 (cell).



(Photo by SMSgt. Ed Snyder, 169th FW/PA)

SrA. Jessica Ervin, 169th Medical Group, injects a silicone compound into the ear of Capt. Justin Puro. Pilots are fit for specialized earpieces which are used with their helmet systems, providing a fit that will enhance hearing quality and comfort. 169th Medical Group personnel are being trained to create the custom-fit moldings.

Bohlman says to Guam ‘Tell it to the chaplain’

While South Carolina and the east coast have experienced colder than normal temperatures this winter, Swamp Fox Chaplain (Maj.) Brian Bohlman has enjoyed balmy tropical breezes on a faraway Pacific island. But he's not on vacation.

Bohlman is deployed to Andersen AFB Guam where he is ministering to the spiritual needs of the thousands of Airmen, Sailors and Soldiers deployed there. Andersen AFB is the staging point for fighters, bombers, tankers and UAVs performing missions for the U.S. Air Force in the Pacific. Bohlman follows in the footsteps of McEntire Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Sturgeon and Chaplain Assistant SSgt. Rudy Skelton who deployed at Andersen AFB last year.

Bohlman volunteered for this three-month deployment because of a continuing chaplain shortfall at Andersen. And, unless things change, it appears Bohlman might be the last National Guard chaplain covering this active duty mission. Bohlman is assigned to care for the operations and maintenance personnel on the flightline and occupies some prime real estate in one of the maintenance hangars. “A lot of people stop by during the day,” he said. “Of course it also helps that we provide free snacks and drinks.”

Bohlman experienced a sort of baptism by fire soon after he arrived in Guam. All of the chaplains at Andersen are assigned as the on-call “duty chaplain” for a week at a time once a month. Unfortunately, just after Bohlman arrived he received a phone call about an accidental death of a family member of one of the permanent party personnel. He provided grief counseling and support during that difficult time.

Some of Bohlman's other responsibilities include leading chapel services, Bible studies and supporting regular Operational Readiness Exercises and annual exercises like Cope North which is a bilateral air operations exercise held with the Japanese Defense forces.

He says he best part of his mission so far is visiting with troops in their workplace. “Chaplains provide a ministry of presence, care and hope as they care for the warrior's soul. It has been great to get away from the office paperwork and email in order to spend quality time visiting Airmen on the flightline



(Photo by MSgt. Kathleen Shasky, USAF)

Chaplain (Maj.) Brian Bohlman talks to SMSgt. Kris Richardson during a visit to the 36th Wing Munitions storage area at Andersen AFB, Guam.

and in the back shop maintenance areas.

“During my unit visits, I often ask each Airman how their career field fits into the overall Air Force mission. This tour has been

It's always a good thing that personnel are coming to see the chaplains for help



educational and given me a new appreciation for the professionalism and dedication of those who wear the uniform.”

One innovative program Bohlman imported from South Carolina is a marriage

retreat for couples assigned as permanent party at Andersen. That program is closely modeled on the Strong Bonds workshops held here.

Bohlman explained, “We are focusing on marriage enrichment, and we had 28 couples participate. I am really excited about this.”

Another unique program Bohlman leads takes advantage of Guam's natural beauty. Bohlman said, “Once a month, the base chapel sponsors a boat dive and provides a brief devotional. It's a unique way to encourage people in their faith before they enjoy the awesome sea life and sunken wreckage underwater. It reminds me of how Jesus spent time teaching the disciples while in a boat on the Sea of Galilee.”

One thing that surprised Bohlman was the heavy counseling load he's seen so far. He said, “It's a real challenge. But it's rewarding to help people who are struggling with issues.” He added that it's always a good thing that personnel are coming to see the chaplains for help. “They have a saying at Andersen: ‘Tell it to the chaplain.’”

(Story by Lt. Col. Jim St. Clair, JFHQ/PA)

Need a lift? Call CDDAR, they will pick you up

The Crashed, Damaged or Disabled Aircraft Recovery Team showed they have what it takes to get the job done during the February Unit Compliance Inspection.

The team of 15 Airmen were tasked with removing a damaged aircraft from the runway during a simulation of an F-16 that crash landed when it's main landing gear collapsed.

TSgt. Brian Nesbitt said, "The CDDAR Team was contacted for removal and immediately became responsible for securing the area, to include pieces of the aircraft that had broken off."

Regulations state all personnel should make every effort to preserve evidence and minimize subsequent damage.

Team Chief MSgt. Shannon Mines emphasized that although they were

responsible for lifting and removing the aircraft, safety is always a priority. He explained the necessity of wearing proper Personal Protection Equipment due to the potential for exposure to various occupational health and safety hazards around a crash site. Personnel involved in the recovery operation have been trained and qualified in the use of the appropriate PPE as directed by bioenvironmental services.

The CDDAR kit consists of air bladders weighing approximately 200 pounds that are used to safely lift an aircraft in the event it ran off the runway or was involved in a crash.

Mines said, "Once the aircraft is lifted with airbags, we'll try to get the landing gear to come down and lock, using the emergency blowdown system. However, if the landing gear is damaged, we would place the aircraft on a set of jack stands, and replace them with serviceable components."

Mines added, "We only deploy our crash/recovery equipment when a base has no



MSgt. James Faile, MSgt. Michael Nix, and TSgt. Carlton Green of The Crashed, Damaged or Disabled Aircraft Recovery Team assist in taking the inflatable lift to the aircraft during recent UCI.



CDDAR team members watch while the air bladders inflate to insure the safety of the Airmen and the aircraft.

crash/recovery support in place, which is rare; and that the process could take as much as three to four hours, assuming no difficulties. But if you have to replace landing gear components, it could take up to 24 hours."

In 2009 the CDDAR team was responsible for installing the F-16 static display at the front gate, but the actual lift technique has not been used since 1996 during training in Savannah, GA.

(Story and Photo by MSgt Pelham Myers, Jr
169th FW/PA.)

Boy Scouts earn merit badges, learn math and science



Indian Watters Council Boy Scouts of America visit McEntire to train with the help of Starbase and other shops on base.

Indian Waters Council Boy Scouts of America held a training event with the Starbase Program on McEntire Jan. 29. The event brought out about 70 participants, including boy scouts and cub scouts from the Three Rivers District.

The boy scouts received instruction on their aviation merit badge, and the cub scouts worked on the scientific belt loop. The instruction covered basic aviation principles and fluid mechanics. The scouts went on several tours including control tower, aircraft hangar and fire department.

Wyndell Waldon, the Three Rivers District Executive who oversees 35 units, said, "This was a great day for Scouting. The group that attended the event was the largest group of individuals at one time for this program. In addition to working on the merit badge/belt loop, the scouts also learned the essentials of math and science and how they play an intricate role in aviation."

The event was coordinated and instructed by MSgt. (ret.) James Rooney previously assigned to the 169th Maintenance Squadron.

(Story by MSgt. (Ret.) James Rooney)

Dr. Jeff Rose, Director of Psychological Health

According to an April 2010 Air Force Times article, suicides in the Air Force were close to mid-1990s levels. Since the Air Force has been a leader in suicide prevention for nearly 15 years, they decided to establish a prevention program focused on fostering a sense of community and identifying problems before Airmen became suicidal.

Last year, the service reassessed its program, and today, they are using a new interactive video to help Airmen identify counterparts who are at risk, while also tracking suicide data more closely and urging everyone to be more open about their problems.

Leadership at McEntire has implemented a more proactive program in conjunction with the Air Force initiative by hiring Jeff Rose as the full-time Wing Director of Psychological Health. He has worked in this field for 11 years, and currently is seeking his doctorate in Psychology at the University of South Carolina.

Rose said, "I am committed to helping people help themselves."

Rose originally is from Brooklyn, New York. He is married to Rhonda. They live in Columbia with their two children, Jeffrey, 11, and Julie, 6.

Rose said he is glad to be back home after spending 20 years in the Air Force from 1979 – 99, mostly in the AGE Shop. He was brought to this area after Hurricane Andrew forged its way through Homestead AFB in 1992, destroying just about everything in

its path. Rather than rebuild in Florida, he opted to move to Shaw AFB, where he spent about seven years.

As the new coordinator, Rose emphasizes, "Mental health is not permanent, as many think; and it is much cheaper to treat someone, than to re-train them. This will not only save the Air Force millions of dollars, but will also help create a better working atmosphere for the people involved."

Rose's main desire is to help create a working environment that is devoid of as much stress as possible, because he really loves and anticipates taking care of SCANG personnel and their families.

Rose also states, "It is important to know, just as other body parts, the brain can be repaired. Getting people to admit the need is the most challenging part of the equation."

He jokes, "When I would set up booth displays, it seemed no one wanted to visit me, so I would literally stand up and yell – No waiting!"

But seriously, he says, "When people begin to feel stress, they tend to self-medicate, rather than to actually treat the brain." But before any type of treatment can begin, the problem must be identified, and that's where the wingman comes in. They should be aware that enlisted male Airmen are most likely to commit suicide, and men make up about 80 percent of the force and account for 95 percent of suicides, according to the Air Force Times (April 2010).

Rose gives the following plan of action to



the responsible wingman, should they notice a co-worker experiencing mental problems: 1) call the Chaplain, 2) contact him, 3) contact your First Sergeant. He stresses, "All meetings are confidential and will not ruin your career, especially if initiated by the individual. My job is to help individuals come to the realization that they are not safe for the job, if that is indeed the case, and the only people who get help are the strong, smart individuals, because they realize they don't have the answer."

Rose plans to be highly visible, by personally coming to the units and getting to know the members of the SCANG. So when members see him coming, they're encouraged not to run – he's only trying to help "No waiting!"

(Story and Photo by MSgt Pelham Myers, Jr
169th FW/PA)

From UCI page 1

we turn on the afterburners we typically perform at our best," Harris said. "That's the Swamp Fox way."

In an e-mail message to the Wing, Brig. Gen. Scott Williams, fighter wing commander, thanked each member of the unit for their hard work and dedication to completing the inspection.

"Considering our tempo and the fact that we haven't had a compliance inspection in about two decades, I am very pleased and you should be very proud of these results," Williams said. "Congratulations to every Swamp Fox on a job well done."

During the UCI, six superior teams and 43 Individual Superior Performers were recognized. During the out brief the IG



also mentioned a handful of exceptional programs including: Maintenance Phase

MIS board "best seen to date" Mission Support's Wing Evaluations Team--OPRs/EPRs; CES Engineering Flight –Airfield Waiver Program; SFS Info/Personnel/Ind Security; COMM Personal wireless communication systems program; LRS Tool Control Program; Operations training shop; Fighter Wing Defense Travel System; Command Post –Training; and Public Affairs.

With the UCI wrapped up the Wing is already setting its crosshairs on another AEF rotation in 2012 and a Phase I ORI.

(Story TSgt. Stephen Hudson, 169th FW/PA)

Training our present for future excellence

Most Swamp Foxes probably remember when they were in Basic Training at Lackland AFB, Texas. Most will probably never forget their first day experience. They didn't know what to expect, or what was expected of them. Many consider this "the fear of the unknown," but the South Carolina Air National Guard has taken the "bull by the horn" in preparing new recruits for that once in a lifetime experience.

Since 2008, the Student Flight program has groomed more than 300 participants, and at least 17 have returned as Distinguished Graduates, while many more have gained recognition as Warhawks, meaning their Physical Training scores exceeded the minimum standards for graduation.

Team leader TSgt. Jose Rodriguez, who works aside Program Coordinator Capt. Heather Leite, says "The program is unique because of the intensity of its curriculum, as well as the quantity of applicants being processed. Although this is an Air Force initiative, the SCANG processes more recruits than most."

Rodriguez has been the team leader of the student flight for the past two of his eight-year SCANG career and says the most rewarding part of his job is to have a recruit come back from Basic Training and simply say, "Thank you."

Since this position rotates every two years, Leite says, "They are currently seeking two new Student Flight coordinators for the next two years."

Rodriguez says, "The main goal of the program is to prepare recruits for what to expect upon their arrival to Basic Training,



Erskine Ham and Christina Thilges practice folding "E-fold blankets" during student flight training Feb. 5.

including memory work, rank recognition, Air Force history, drill techniques, as well as Physical Training.

The SCANG's student flight currently consists of approximately 100 recruits, who recently played an important role at the Adjutant General change of command, by actively assisting with setup. They also perform various duties at McEntire, Preparing them for their future challenges.

(Story and Photo by MSgt Pelham Myers, Jr., 169th FW/PA)

Women's History Month celebrated in March

Each March the sacrifices and accomplishments of women are recognized during National Women's History Month. As stated on the National Women's History Project web page: "March is celebrated as National Women's History Month in thousands of schools, communities, and workplaces across the nation as well as on military bases throughout the world."

2011's theme is: *Our History is Our Strength*. This theme pays tribute to the millions of women who have helped create a better world for the times in which they lived as well as for future generations. Throughout history women have answered their nation's call.

Leaders of the SCANG recognize the contributions of women in the military and here in the SCANG. The first female joined the unit December 1958 and since that time Lady Swamp Foxes have deployed around the world and around the nation in almost every career field, as civilians and Airmen, as enlisted and officers.

Today, South Carolina has its first female Governor and its first female general. The SCANG salutes the many contributions of women around the world, around the nation, around the state and around the SCANG.

(Commentary by CMSgt. James Brunson, 169th FW)



(Graphic courtesy U.S. Air Force)

AF officials: 'Spice' harmful to health, career

A recent spate of incidents involving service members abusing the herbal mixture "spice" has prompted uniformed service leaders to stress the ramifications of using the drug and other prohibited substances, officials said here Feb 11.

Marketed and sold as incense, and closely resembling potpourri, spice, also known as K2, skunk, or fake marijuana, is among many "designer drugs" banned under Department of Defense directive 1010-3.4 and Air Force Instruction 44-120.

Air Force leaders said they want to send a clear message about the health and career gambles associated with the drug, as indicated by the service's zero tolerance policy regarding illegal substance use or possession.

Air Force officials recently updated AFI 44-120 (<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/shared/media/epubs/AFI44-120.pdf>) and issued an updated guidance memorandum for AFI 44-121 (<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/shared/media/epubs/AFI44-121.pdf>) revising the Military Drug Demand Reduction Program and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program, respectively.

The revision prohibits the ingestion of any substance, other than alcohol or tobacco, for the purpose of altering mood or function. The possession of any intoxicating substance, if done with the intent to use in a manner that would alter mood or function, is also prohibited. The regulation also states that Airmen using spice could be found in violation of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, face dishonorable discharge, confinement for two years, and total forfeiture of all pay and allowances. Enlisted members also face reduction to the lowest enlisted grade.

Air Force medical professionals assert the health risks associated with spice should also spur Airmen to avoid the drug since

manufacturing of the substance is not closely controlled and its ingredients can be unknown and dangerous.

Published reports on the Drug Enforcement Agency website www.justice.gov cite that spice contains HU-210 -- a synthetic cannabinoid hundreds of times more potent than THC -- or tetrahydrocannabinol, the main psychoactive substance in marijuana. DEA studies also showed spice to contain a high quantity of other synthetic chemicals, indicating a user may not realize what is being introduced into the body.

"The lack of body control and inability to make any logical decisions to include issues of health and safety could cause severe bodily harm or death," said Dr. Aaron Jacobs, Air Force drug testing program manager.

While the long-term effects of spice are currently unknown because of its relative newness, Dr. Jacobs said the drug's impact on the body may be as severe as its known short-term effects.

"Spice can cause disorientation, vomiting, loss of motor control, hallucinations, an out-of-body feeling, rapid-heart rate and seizures," he said. "Some individuals report that the intense feelings are so troubling that they will never do spice again."

The NIDA website, www.drugabuse.gov, also reports that in December 2010, the DEA issued a notice that it intends to ban five synthetic cannabinoids by placing them in Schedule I status under the Controlled Substances Act and expect to issue the final order shortly. Schedule I status indicates the DEA considers the substance to have high-abuse potential and no known medical benefits; as such, it is illegal to possess or sell products that contain the substance.

(Story by MSgt. Amaani Lyle, SAF/PA.)

Fire Department doesn't blow smoke during UCI

The 169th Civil Engineering Squadron endured several grueling tasks during the February UCI and came out on top. The three tasks were confined spaces training, responding to a structural fire and aircrew extraction. Each one required Fire Department members to use specialized training and teamwork to be successful.

SMSgt. Stephen Turner, fire chief, said the inspectors were pleased with what they saw and the Fire Department met their objectives in all scenarios.

"The inspectors were pleased," Turner said.

Two ACC IG inspectors were on hand to evaluate the tasks. Turner said this is their first UCI, however, it's not their first time doing these tasks. Similar task evaluations are held for the Fire Department during ORIs.

"I am very proud of every one," Turner said.

The scenarios weren't the only Fire Department programs inspected during the UCI. The inspectors also looked at the

EMS program, standard operating guidelines along with the base fire prevention program.

MSgt. Hank Hill, assistant chief of training for the fire department, was also recognized as a Superior Performer for the UCI.



(Photo by SSgt. Jorge Intriago 169th FW/PA)



(Photo by TSgt. Caycee Cook, 169th FW/PA)



(Photo by TSgt. Caycee Cook, 169th FW/PA)



We had a smaller crowd for the February breakfast, around 45 folks, but we all had a great time. We had a good presenter, Gary Byrd, concerning the beleaguered B-25 that is sitting at Owens Field that has gone through so much. Byrd is the spokesperson for South Carolina Historic Aircraft Foundation. He and the Foundation are looking for volunteers to help with "Skunkie," which includes both financial help and volunteer help. Perhaps some of us can help in some capacity to have this plane ultimately fly some day, which is the Foundation's goal.

We also had a another guest, Lt. John Sparks. He is one of our Associate Pilots (Newbie), and he was tasked to find out about McEntire's history and pilot fatalities we experienced in the past.

So I had him sit between Gen. Hood and Buck Buchanan -- he hardly got a word in, but my sense is he learned a lot and enjoyed himself. He was one of the last ones to leave the breakfast.

McEntire History: I have at the time of this writing a total of 1025 retirees identified. I believe there are another 25-50 who haven't been determined yet; mainly the "missing link" crew. This is why I am going to revert from the 2000 retirees back to the 1987 retirees soon.

Right now we are honoring the last group of 1999 retirees: Maj. Douglas T. Monjeau, CMSgt.'s Thomas A. Marshall, Mike E. Stroble, Jr., and Kenneth B. Wicker. SMSgt.'s Walter E. Kemp, III, and Melton P. Shealy, III. MSgt.'s Steven E. Carroll, James E. Edge, Albert L. Reh, Johnella K. Roundtree and Melvin R. Smith. TSgt.'s Dexter Vandroff and Billy J. Taylor. This

concludes the known 1999 retirees. If any 1999 retirees noted they were not mentioned, please contact me.

In March 2003, the 169th made a second trip back to Qatar to support OIF. Also, the 240th stood down effective March 31, 2008.

Our next breakfast will be March 1 at the Fort Jackson NCO Club at 8:30 a.m. We should eat around 9a.m. At this time, there is no agenda, other than meet and greet.

I hope many of you can make it, the last two years I estimate we had an average of 75 folks. Wear your SCANG retiree gear that I have been peddling on you for the past several years to show your colors.

One more thing. Please entertain the trip in June to Washington DC. I keep saying this, but this may be the last time many of us get to go to Washington and see these historic places, memorials and places of interest. You will be traveling with fellow retirees and spouses, and will leave the driving to Capitol Tours. Therefore, no hassle concerning parking or where to go, stay, etc. Think about it!

See you at McEntire in March and the Washington trip in June.

SCANG Retirees present. . .

Washington, DC June 2-5, 2011

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For Questions please contact: Bob Barkalow

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This tour requires considerable walking when touring

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Charleston AFB

SSgt. James Rodriguez

(803) 647-8085

BB: (803) 391-6348

MOVIN' In MOVIN' Up, & MOVIN' On

Enlistments

SSgt. Nathaniel McLeod, 169 CES
 SSgt. Robert Seter, 169 MXS
 SrA. Stephen Calapp, 169 MXS
 SrA. Joseph Dellinger, 169 CES
 A1C. Stephanie Shumuck, 169 MXS
 A1C. Stephen Wilkinson, 169 MXS

Enlisted Promotions

Chief Master Sergeant

Robert Hux, 169 MXS

Master Sergeant

Jessica Feil, 169 CES
 Jason Horne, 169 LRS

Technical Sergeant

Thomas Arthur, 245 ATCS
 David Caldwell, 245 ATCS
 Clinton Cooper, 169 MXS
 William Mackinzie, 245 ATCS

Staff Sergeant

Franklin Wiley, 169 FW

Officer Promotions

Maj. Robert Gainous, 169 OG

SCANG Schedule

March 2-6 HSI
 March 5-18 Key West
 March 25-27 NGASC
 April 16 Top Gun Drill Meet

Retirements

CMSgt. Larry Amick
 41 years

CMSgt. Ronald Bryant
 37 years

CMSgt. Aubry Carde
 28 years

MSgt. Jody Crabtree
 23 years

MSgt. Edward Earle
 25 years

TSgt. Stephanie Brooks
 15 years

TSgt. Michael Steele
 20 years

TSgt. Gregory Woods
 22 years

Base Training

Airman Leadership School
 (class start dates -- five-week duration)
 (56 seats for ANG members)

2011

TBA

Noncommissioned Officers Academy
 (class start dates -- six-week duration)
 (75 seats for ANG members)

PME Schedule

MCGHEE TYSON ALS

11 Apr 11 - 12 May 11

27 Jun 11 - 28 Jul 11

15 Aug 11 - 15 Sep 11

27 Sep 11 - 28 Oct 11

MCGHEE TYSON NCOA

11 Apr 11 - 18 May 11

27 Jun 11 - 3 Aug 11

15 Aug 11 - 21 Sep 11

27 Sep 11 - 3 Nov 11

TESTING SCHEDULE

Tuesdays, 1 p.m.

Drill Sundays, 12:30 p.m.

Report for testing no later than 15 minutes before the test. Members testing on CDCs required for upgrade training must bring their AFIADL 9 course card with the following items documented:

Date review training began
 Date due completion
 Date review training ended
 Supervisor's signature
 Trainee's signature

Members without the card and required information are not allowed to test. For more information, contact a unit training manager.



Eagle Vision recognized, presented with the William T. Perora award

NASA and the U.S. Department of the Interior presented the 2010 William T. Pecora group award to the U.S. Air Force Eagle Vision program Tuesday at a Pentagon ceremony. Eagle Vision was recognized for contributions in the United States and abroad to homeland security, humanitarian aid and natural disaster recovery efforts.

"Eagle Vision is an excellent demonstration of how Earth observations from space support not only our soldiers and allies, but make a big contribution to our country's humanitarian efforts at home and abroad," NASA Chief Scientist Waleed Abdalati said. "One of NASA's primary missions, according to our founding charter, is expanding human knowledge of the Earth. Eagle Vision is an excellent example of the great achievements that can be realized in Earth science through inter-agency collaboration."

CMSgt. Peter Weidel accepts the award for the SCANG Eagle Vision.



What's for Lunch?

Saturday

Hamburgers,
hot dogs,
potato chips,
baked beans

Sunday

Spaghetti w/meatballs,
mixed vegetables,
garlic bread

100% ID Check, no exceptions!

The Dining Facility is open 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Everyone using the facility must present a valid ID card.

REFLECTIONS

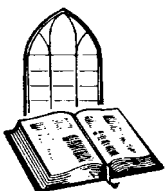
It's that time of year again when trees and flowers bring forth new life. It is a new beginning for nature, but it only happens for a short period of time until next year. You know God allows new beginnings any time or day of the year. We just need to be open to Him to make those changes He knows we need.

As trees give new life, God has provided new, fresh starts by act of the savior on a tree. The cross was made out of a tree, probably olive wood; New life becomes available to mankind by the sacrifice of Jesus on a tree. This was God's plan.

Because of man's disobedience by eating from a forbidden tree. Now for eternity there is a tree of life in the new Jerusalem (Rev. 22) for all those who have received new life through the sacrifice on that old tree at Mt. Calvary.

Trees have been created to give life. Do you need a new, fresh start.

Chaplain David H. Sturgeon



Worship Schedule Saturday

Maintenance (hangar) & SFS after roll call

Sunday

8 - 8:30 a.m. - "Chapel Now" (WG HQ auditorium)
10:30-10:55 a.m. - "Chapel Next" (Dining Facility)
1:30-2 p.m. - Catholic Mass
in the LRS conference room (Father Travis)

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Swamp Fox Litter

Caroline Reagan

Jan. 24, 2011

Proud parents are
Maj. Kirsten and Sean Holster

Garham Dennis

Jan. 28, 2011

Proud parents are
Capt. Brian and Tiffany Walsh